

Brick and Pavers Cutting Guide



Controlling workplace exposure of respirable crystalline silica

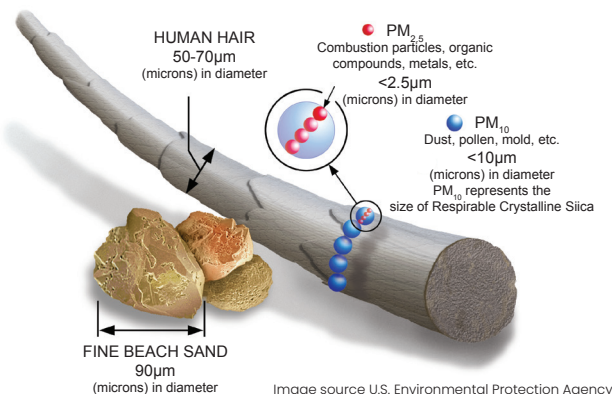
WHAT IS CRYSTALLINE SILICA?

Crystalline Silica is found naturally in stone, rocks, sand, gravel and clay.

WHAT IS RESPIRABLE CRYSTALLINE SILICA DUST?

Respirable crystalline silica is dust generated from materials and products containing crystalline silica. It is released when mechanically treated (e.g. cutting, sawing, abrading such as rasping, scraping, grinding down, chasing or crushing). This dust is of concern due to its size as it gets caught deep in your lungs and can cause long term damage.

CSR has conducted tests which have determined the amount of crystalline silica that may become respirable size particles when cutting bricks or pavers.



CSR has made the following recommendations, in order of the hierarchy of controls.

<p>ELIMINATION HAND CUT</p>	<p>Process below exposure limits when using the controls shown</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut bricks by hand using a hammer and bolster or a trowel 	
<p>ENGINEERING WET CUT SAW</p>	<p>Process below exposure limits when using the controls shown</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wet brick cutting saw • Clean shaven, fit tested P2 mask 	
<p>ENGINEERING GRINDER WITH LEV</p>	<p>Short Duration Controlled Cutting below exposure limits</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grinder with dust extraction • Clean shaven, fit tested P2 mask critical control • Limit cutting to 4 hours per day 	
<p>NO CONTROLS NO ACTIVITY</p>	<p>Uncontrolled Cutting exceeds exposure limits</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bricks dry cut with grinder (no controls) • P2 masks DO NOT provide adequate protection 	
<p>CLEAN UP</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate dry sweeping • Use vacuum system with HEPA filter fitted to clean up where required • Dust extraction – vacuum bag is sealed (double bag for additional safety) and safely disposed of with trade waste • Worker must be clean shaven and wear a fit tested P2 mask 	

Independent testing was conducted by Safe Environments Pty Limited to EN 689 and ISO 16258-1 (NATA accreditation 17139).



The activity of cutting bricks and pavers has been assessed and is considered low risk when people are trained in the task, equipment is used and maintained to manufacturer requirements and all controls as indicated are correctly in place.

Regular monitoring of people conducting this activity is required to verify controls are effective in managing the risk of exposure to respirable crystalline silica.

Disclaimer. It is the responsibility of the user to review and confirm applied controls meet exposure standards.